



Repeater: NØDX 145.190 MHz (Input 144.590 / Tone 192.8 Hz)



Home

Meetings

Members

Officers

Newsletter

E. Iowa DX Bulletin

Buy-Sell-Trade

DXCC Card Checking

About EIDX

History

Constitution & Bylaws

DX Resources

The Eastern Iowa DX Bulletin

Number 320, April 3, 2026

Craig Fastenow, KØCF, Editor

This bulletin is a compilation of **currently active** DX operations (or those that will become active within the current week) from recent issues of the three DX bulletins listed below and other sources. Credit for the source is given at the end of each article.

Articles are ordered by the entity's callsign prefix from the *ARRL DXCC Entities List*. Callsigns used are in **bold** with dates of operation highlighted in **red**. Clickable links are provided for QSL and other information wherever possible. Note that articles may be edited for grammar, language, style and accuracy and will remain in *The Bulletin* while active; articles that are announcements of ongoing operations, or that have no specified end date, will be removed after three weeks.

Also included is a [Propagation](#) section (updated as conditions warrant) and a [Contest Calendar](#) of upcoming popular contests.

DX News items are courtesy of:

The ARRL DX Bulletin

This bulletin is available via email subscription only. See

<http://www.arrl.org/bulletins> to subscribe. (The online archive is no longer updated.)

425 DX News, A.R.I. DX Bulletin (425DXN)

Edited by Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ & Valeria Pregliasco, IK1ADH

425 DX News Home Page: <https://www.425dxn.org/>

425 DX News Google Group: <https://groups.google.com/g/425eng>

DX Newsletter (DXNL)

Edited by Andreas Salder, DK5ON

A weekly service of DARC Committee "DX", <http://www.darcdxhf.de>

Propagation data is from:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's

[Space Weather Prediction Center](#)

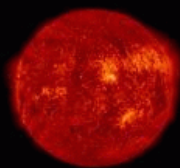
Dr. Tony Phillips' [SpaceWeather.com](#), used by permission

Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#)



Solar-Terrestrial Data

04 Apr 2026 1718 GMT
SFI: 136 SN: 106
A-Index: 49
K-Index: 1
X-Ray: B9.8
304A: 120.1 @ SEM
Ptn Flx: 2810
Elc Flx: 14200
Aurora: 1/n=1.99
Mag (Bz): 0.5
Solar Wind: 584.8
Geomag Field VR QUIET
Sig Noise Lvl S0-S1
Current Solar Image



<http://www.nonbh.com>
Copyright Paul L. Herrman 2023

5626

DX News

3B9, RODRIGUES I. Suvarna, VU3OPT (OMØGA), will be QRV as **3B9N** from **April 4th to May 22nd**. Activity will be on 20, 15, and 10 meters using CW. QSL via [VU3OPT](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 13 April 2, 2026] (0403-0522)

8P, BARBADOS. Lloyd, K2JVX, will be QRV as **8P9KX** from **April 6th to 9th**. Activity will be on 40 and 20 meters using SSB. QSL via [K2JVX](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 13 April 2, 2026] (0403-0410)

8R, GUYANA. Renato, PY8WW, is QRV holiday style as **8R/PZ5TW** from Corriverton **until April 5th**. Activity is on 80 through 10 meters using CW, SSB, and digital modes. QSL via [PY8WW](#), [ClubLog's](#)

[OQRS](#) or LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 13 April 2, 2026] (0403-0410)

9G, GHANA. The Italian DXpedition Team's activity from Ghana is scheduled to start **during the first half of April** (dates TBA). The team will be QRV on 160-6 meters as **9G5RR** (CW, SSB and RTTY) and **9G5CC** (FT8, not Fox & Hound) from Busua Beach on the mainland. Activity from Abokwa Island (AF-084) will depend on weather and sea conditions. Plans are for two operators to be as **9G5ZP** on 15 meters daily, from morning to evening. They will operate CW, SSB and FT8. More information, including the link to I2YSB's OQRS, can be found on <https://www.i2ysb.com/idx/index.php>. All QSLs direct to [I2YSB](#).

-[425DXN # 1816 February 21, 2026] (0327-0417)

C6, BAHAMAS. Paul, WA4PAW, operates as **C6APS** until **April 12th** on 20-10m (CW, SSB, FT8). QSL via [WA4PAW](#), [ClubLog's OQRS](#), LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2502 March 18, 2026] (0320-0417)

CE9,KC4, ANTARCTICA. Ramon, LU1DMZ, is QRV as **LU1DMZ/Z** from the Orcadas base on Laurie Island (AN-008) **until the end of 2026**. QSL info unknown.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 13 April 2, 2026] (0403-0424)

CE9,KC4, ANTARCTICA. Tom, VK2TBC, is QRV as **VKØTBC** from the Casey base on the Bailey peninsula (AN-016) **until the end of 2026**. QSL via [VK2TBC](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 13 April 2, 2026] (0403-0424)

CEØY, EASTER I. Max, DJ4EL, is QRV from Easter Island (SA-001) as **CEØY/DJ4EL** until **April 11th**. Activity is holiday style on 20 through 10 meters using SSB. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) and LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 13 April 2, 2026] (0403-0410)

D4, CAPE VERDE. Frank, DL1IL, plans a holiday-style activation of two Cape Verde islands (AF-005) for the **end of March to mid-April** as **D41IL**. QRV with 10W on CW. QSL via [DL1IL](#), eQSL, e-mail.

-[DXNL # 2499 February 25, 2026] (0327-0417)

DL, GERMANY. Special callsign **DA2ØØGVN** (special DOK 200GVN) celebrates the 200th anniversary of the birth of polar explorer Georg von Neumayer from **April 1st until July 31st** on HF, VHF and via QO-100. QSL via [DK5ON](#), DCL, LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2504 April 1, 2026] (0403-0424)

DL, GERMANY. Special callsign **DM5ØGFS** (special DOK 50GFS) commemorates the opening of the first German Antarctic station (Georg Forster) by the German Democratic Republic (GDR) in 1976. QRV from **April 1st to July 31st** on HF, VHF and via QO-100. QSL via [DK5ON](#), DCL, LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2504 April 1, 2026] (0403-0424)

DL, GERMANY. Special callsign **DA26WARD** by the DARC Team SES promotes World Amateur Radio Day from **March 1st until April 30th**. WARD is celebrated annually on April 18th, the day when the IARU was formed in 1925. The theme for this year's WARD is "Advancing the Spirit of Amateur Radio Through Innovation". QSL via LoTW, [DK5ON](#), and DCL (DARC Community Logbook).

-[425DXN # 1818 March 7, 2026] (0306-0501)

DL, GERMANY. Celebrating a half-century of German research in Antarctica, special callsigns **DAØANT**, **DM5ØANT** and **DP5ØANT** will be active from **February 15th to April 30th**. In addition, **DM5ØGFS** will also be active on **April 1st-30th** (for the 50th anniversary of the Georg Forster Station, established by the GDR in 1976 and decommissioned in 1993), as well as **DP2ØØGVN** (for the bicentenary of the birth of Georg von Neumayer, after whom three German Antarctic research stations have been named). See <https://50ant.hamaward.de/en/german-antarctic-research/> for complete information on the "50 Years of German Antarctic Research" award.

-[425DXN # 1814 February 7, 2026] (0213-0501)

DXCC TOP TWENTY. Here are the top 20 entities on ClubLog's "DXCC Most Wanted" list as of April 2, 2026:

1. P5	DPRK (North Korea)	11. VKØM	Macquarie Island
2. KH3	Johnston Island	12. EZ	Turkmenistan

3. KH7K	Kure Island	13. PYØS	Saint Peter And Paul Rocks
4. CEØX	San Felix Islands	14. VPØS	South Sandwich Islands
5. FT5/X	Kerguelen Island	15. 3Y/B	Bouvet Island
6. BS7H	Scarborough Reef	16. YK	Syria
7. 3Y/P	Peter 1 Island	17. ZL9	New Zealand Subantarctic Islands
8. YVØ	Aves Island	18. FT/T	Tromelin Island
9. BV9P	Pratas Island	19. VKØH	Heard Island
10. KH4	Midway Island	20. KH1	Baker Howland Islands

For the complete list, see <https://clublog.org/mostwanted.php>

-[KØCF April 3, 2026 (0403-0424)

E5/S, SOUTH COOK IS. Frank, DJ5NQ is currently active holiday style as **E51ANQ** from Rarotonga (OC-013), South Cook Islands. He can operate SSB and CW on 80-10 meters. QSL via [DJ5NQ](#).

-[425DXN # 1820 March 21, 2026] (0320-0410)

EA, SPAIN. Special event station **AO75ØSJ** celebrates the 750th anniversary of Saint George patron saint of the city of Alcoy. Look for activity on 160-6 meters SSB, CW and digital modes on **April 6th-26th**. See <https://ao750sj.ure.es/> for the award program. QSL via LoTW and eQSL, paper cards will not be issued.

-[425DXN # 1822 April 4, 2026] (0403-0424)

EA8, CANARY IS. Markus, DA2DX, operates holiday-style as **EA8/DA2DX** from **March 30th to April 6th** from Fuerteventura (AF-004) on CW, SSB, RTTY, FT4/8. QSL via [DA2DX](#), [ClubLog's OQRS](#), LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2503 March 25, 2026] (0327-0410)

EK, ARMENIA. A group of operators will be QRV as **EKØW** on **April 4th**. Activity will be on the HF bands. QSL info unknown.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 13 April 2, 2026] (0403-0410)

F, FRANCE. The radio club APRA Wingles (Pas de Calais) celebrates France's second female astronaut Sophie Adenot (KJ5LTN) with the callsign **TM62SA** until June.

-[DXNL # 2502 March 18, 2026] (0320-0424)

F, FRANCE. The radio club Rambouillet F6KKR celebrates its 50th anniversary with the callsign **TM5ØKKR** on **Saturdays only from March until June**.

-[DXNL # 2499 February 25, 2026] (0306-0410)

FO, FRENCH POLYNESIA. Didier, F6BCW has been active as **FO/F6BCW** from Tikehau Atoll (OC-066), French Polynesia since March 28th, and will remain there until **April 10th**. He operates CW and SSB on 80-6 meters. After joining the TX9W team (Marquesas Islands, April 19th-30th), he will be back on Tikehau from **May 5th to July 20th**. QSL FO/F6BCW via LoTW and [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1822 April 4, 2026] (0403-0410)

H4, SOLOMON IS. Bernhard, DL2GAC, will be QRV as **H44MS** from Manakwai Village on Malaita Island (OC-047) from **January 18th to April 15th**. Activity will be on the HF bands. QSL to [DL2GAC](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 2 January 15, 2026] (0116-0417)

I, ITALY. For the third year in a row, members of ARI Sondrio (IQ2UL) will operate the special event station **I12AUT** from **March 28th to April 12th** for the World Autism Awareness Day. Click the image below for more information. A certificate will be available on <https://hamaward.cloud/awards>.



-[425DXN # 1821 March 28, 2026] (0327-0417)

J7, DOMINICA. Brennan, N4QX, will be QRV as **J79QX** from **April 5th to 11th**. Activity will be on FM satellites. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 13 April 2, 2026] (0403-0410)

JD1/M, MINAMI TORISHIMA. Take, **JG8NQJ/JD1** expects to be back to the weather station on Minami Torishima (OC-073) from **February 26th until mid-May**. In his limited spare time, he will operate mainly CW with some FT8 (note that he wants you to call with your signal report, not your grid square). QSL via [JA8CJY](#) (direct), JG8NQJ (bureau) and LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1815 February 14, 2026] (0220-0508)

K, UNITED STATES. Special callsign **W2A** will be active on **April 1st-7th** for the fourth World Autism Awareness Week Special Event. See <https://www.qrz.com/db/W2A> for more information. Also, for more information about World Autism Awareness, click the image below. QSL via [ClubLog's QQRS](#) only.



-[425DXN # 1821 March 28, 2026] (0327-0410)

LZ, BULGARIA. The radio club Blagovestnik (LZ1KCP) continues to honor the memory of Bulgarian saints in 2026:

- * **LZ488AM** (March-April),
- * **LZ37ØTL** (May-June),
- * **LZ67PP** (July-August),
- * **LZ936BA** (September-October), and
- * **LZ911TD** (November-December).

-[DXNL # 2504 April 1, 2026] (0403-0424)

ON, BELGIUM. Celebrating World Amateur Radio Day, members of the HF Committee and the Board of Directors of the UBA, Belgium's IARU society, will be active as **ØØ26WARD** throughout April. QSL via LoTW, eQSL, or via the bureau.

-[425DXN # 1822 April 4, 2026] (0403-0501)

ON, BELGIUM. Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Belgian National Railway Company (NMBS/SNCB), special station **ØT26B** is active until **December 31st**. The line between Brussels and Mechelen, opened on May 5, 1835, was the first steam-powered public railway in continental Europe. QSL via [ØR4K](#).

-[425DXN # 1821 March 28, 2026] (0327-0424)

PA, NETHERLANDS. Special callsign **PI26WT** and others (**PAØ1WT, PAØ2WT, PDØ1WT, PDØ2WT, PDØ3WT, PDØ4WT, PDØ5WT, PDØ7WT, PDØ9WT**) will be active on **April 7th-21st** for the Dutch Radio Group's Water Tower Event. Several certificates will be available, see <https://dutchradiogroup.com/> for detailed information.

-[425DXN # 1821 March 28, 2026] (0403-0424)

PA, NETHERLANDS. Dutch special callsigns **PA26WAAD, PB26WAAD, PC26WAAD, PD26WAAD, PE26WAAD, PG26WAAD** and **PH26WAAD** will be in use from **March 20th to April 5th** for the World Autism Awareness Day. See <https://www.qrz.com/db/PA26WAAD> for the award. In 2007 the United Nations General Assembly declared April 2nd as World Autism Awareness Day to highlight the need to help improve the quality of life of autistic individuals so they can lead full and meaningful lives as an integral part of society. QSL via [NL1Ø743](#), LoTW and eQSL.

-[425DXN # 1819 March 14, 2026] (0320-0410)

SØ, WESTERN SAHARA. Naama, SØ1A, and Azman, SØ1AH, are QRV as **SØ9S** until the end of **May** to mark the 50th anniversary of Western Sahara. QSL via [ClubLog's QQRS](#) or LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 13 April 2, 2026] (0403-0529)

SP, POLAND. Celebrating the 680th anniversary of the city of Bydgoszcz, members of the local radio club (SP2KKB) will be active as **HF68ØBY, HF68ØBD** and **HF68ØBG** on **April 1st-30th**. See

<https://radiodyplom.pl/ses/205> for the award.

-[425DXN # 1822 April 4, 2026] (0403-0501)

SV, GREECE. Members of the Radio Amateur Association of Western Greece are QRV with special callsign **SZ4ØA** until May 31st to celebrate forty years of continuous presence, service, and contribution to amateur radio. Activity is on various HF bands and modes. QSL via [ON3UN](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 12 March 26, 2026] (0327-0529)

SV, GREECE. Members of the Hellenic Naval Amateur Radio Club (HNARC) will be active as **SZ465CG** from March 19th to April 18th. They will operate CW, FT8/FT4 and some SSB on 80-10 meters, as well as via QO-100. See <https://www.qrz.com/db/SZ465CG> for more information.

-[425DXN # 1820 March 21, 2026] (0320-0417)

T31, C. KIRIBATI. The Rebel DX Group is expected on the air from Kanton Island (OC-043) as **T31TTT** for about 2 weeks, beginning March 25th until April 8th. Due to newly introduced access restrictions, this may be the last visit and activation for some time. QRV on all bands on digital modes, SSB, CW. See also <https://www.qrz.com/db/T31TTT>. QSL only via [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[DXNL # 2503 March 25, 2026] (0327-0410)

TJ, CAMEROON. Father Darek, TJ1GD is active as **TJ1GD/p** from Mondoleh Island (AF-095). This operation is a tribute to Stefan Szolc-Rogozinski, the Polish explorer born on April 14, 1861, who established a research station there in 1883. "To honor his legacy", Darek says, "I will aim to be active from Mondoleh Island every April in the coming years". This IOTA group has been activated only once (by TJ3MC/p back in 2004). See <https://www.qrz.com/db/TJ1GD/P> for more information. QSL TJ1GD/p via [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[425DXN # 1822 April 4, 2026] (0403-0424)

TN, CONGO. Darek, HF3GD, is QRV as **TN8GD** from Brazzaville. Activity is on 160 through 6 meters using CW, SSB, and FT8. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 13 April 2, 2026] (0403-0424)

TY, BENIN. Red, DL1BUG is QRV as **TY5FR** from Cotonou until April 5th. Activity is on 80 through 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to [DL1BUG](#), [ClubLog's OQRS](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 9 March 5, 2026] (0306-0410)

TY, BENIN. Gerard, F5NVF, is QRV as **TY5GG** until April 6th. Activity is on the HF bands. QSL via LoTW.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 4 January 29, 2026] (0130-0410)

UA, EUROPEAN RUSSIA. Members of the Miller DX Club use the call signs **R2Ø14NC**, **R1996VK**, **R1994YU** from April 6th to 9th for the Space activity days. QSL via [RQ7L](#).

-[DXNL # 2504 April 1, 2026] (0403-0410)

UA, EUROPEAN RUSSIA. Commemorating the 65th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's first space flight, 18 special event stations will be active on April 3rd-15th: **R65CTC** (Moscow Oblast), **R65MCC** (Moscow Oblast), **R65RKC** (Kaluga Oblast), **R65RKP** (Arkhangelsk Oblast), **R65RKV** (Amur Oblast), **R65YAG** (Chuvash Republic), **RG65KG** (Kaluga Oblast), **RG65KK** (Krasnoyarsk Krai), **RG65KO** (Komi Republic), **RG65MO** (Moscow Oblast), **RG65NN** (Nizhny Novgorod Oblast), **RG65OB** (Orenburg Oblast), **RG65SA** (Saratov Oblast), **RG65SM** (Smolensk Oblast), **RG65SV** (Sverdlovsk Oblast), **RG65TB** (Tambov Oblast), **RG65TO** (Tomsk Oblast), **RG65VO** (Vologda Oblast). See <https://hamlog.online/club/srr/1796/> for the award, issued by the Russian Amateur Radio Union (SRR).

-[425DXN # 1822 April 4, 2026] (0403-0417)

UR, UKRAINE. Nick, US8AR, celebrates his 50 years on the air with the call sign **EM5ØAR**.

-[DXNL # 2504 April 1, 2026] (0403-0424)

UR, UKRAINE. Special call sign **EO8ØF** celebrates the 80th anniversary of the Palace of Children and Youth in Izmail.

-[DXNL # 2504 April 1, 2026] (0403-0424)

UR, UKRAINE. The special event callsigns **EM1ØØW** and **EN1ØØWLKK** celebrate the centenary of the Lviv Shortwave Club in 1926.

-[DXNL # 2504 April 1, 2026] (0403-0424)

V4, ST. KITTS & NEVIS. Janusz, SP9FIH will be active as **V4/SP9FIH** and **V47K** from New Castle on Nevis Island (NA-104) from **March 23rd to April 18th**. He will operate SSB, FT8, FT4 and "maybe RTTY" on 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 6 meters. QSL via [ClubLog's OQRS](#) and LoTW.

-[425DXN # 1820 March 21, 2026] (0320-0417)

VE, CANADA. Special callsign **VX9P** honors the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong **during April**. QSL via [VE9CF](#), LoTW.

-[DXNL # 2504 April 1, 2026] (0403-0501)

VK9C, COCOS (KEELING) IS. Mark, VK6BSA, and Deena, VK6DEE, are QRV as **VK9BSA** and **VK9DEE**, respectively, **until May**. Activity is in their spare time. QSL VK9BSA via [VK6BSA](#) and VK9DEE via [VK6DEE](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 11 March 19, 2026] (0320-0501)

VP8/O,LU, SOUTH ORKNEY IS. Ramon, LU1DMZ plans to be active as **LU1DMZ/Z** and **LU1ZA** from Base Orcadas on Laurie Island (AN 008) **during all of 2026**. Activity is in his spare time. QSL via operator's instructions.

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 12 March 26, 2026] (0327-0417)

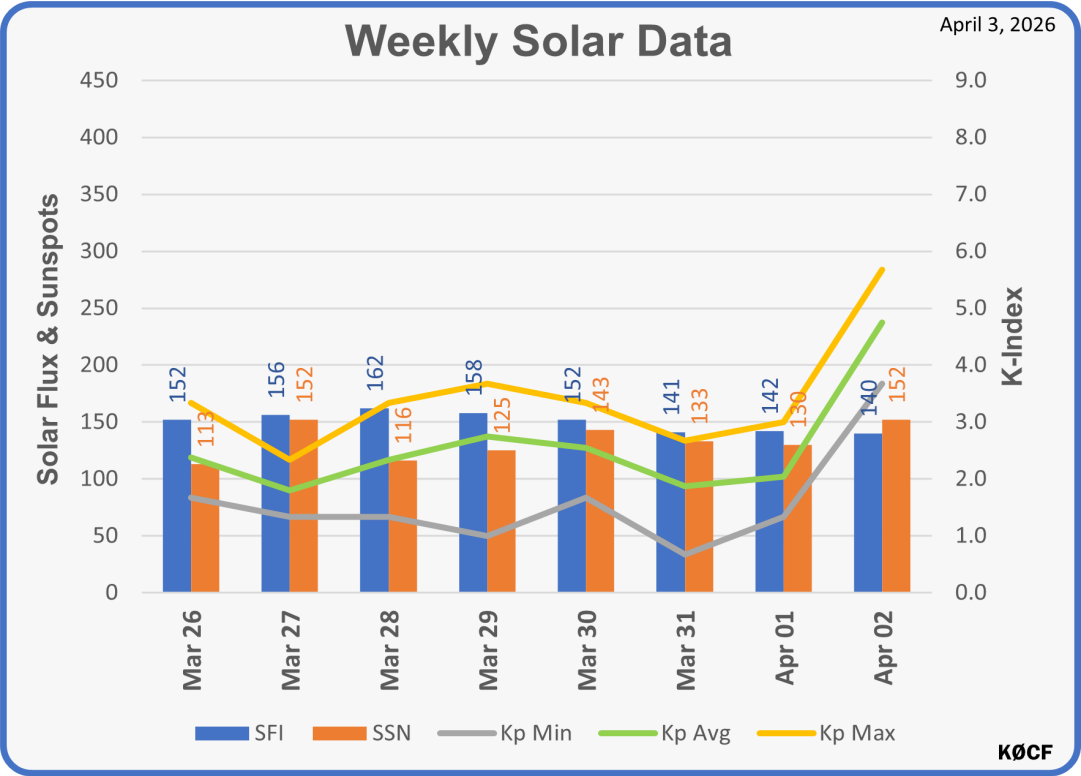
YO, ROMANIA. Special callsign **YR1ØØRC** celebrates the centenary of Radioclubul Craiova (March 18, 1926), Romania's first amateur radio club. Look for activity from **March 16th to September 30th**. A certificate will be available on <https://hamlog.online/club/romania/1786/>.

-[425DXN # 1820 March 21, 2026] (0320-0424)

ZD7, ST. HELENA. Jun, JL8AQH is QRV as **ZD7AQH**. Activity is on 40 through 10 meters using CW. His length of stay is unknown. QSL direct to [JL8AQH](#).

-[ARRL DX Bulletin # 12 March 26, 2026] (0327-0417)

Propagation



The Weekly Solar Data chart plots Solar Flux Index (SFI), Sunspot number (SSN) and Planetary K-Index (Kp) for the past 8 days. With 8 Planetary K-index readings each day, only the minimum, average and maximum K-index values are plotted. **Note:** You may click [here](#) or on the chart above to see the same data for the past month.

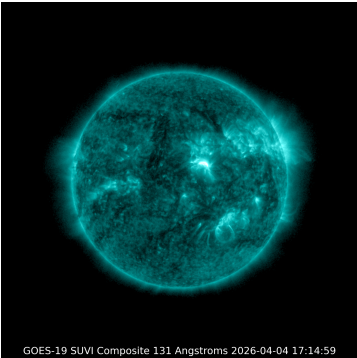
The Daily Solar Flux Index, Sunspot number, Planetary K-index, Solar Flux predictions and Solar Flare data used in this bulletin have been collected by KØCF from the U.S. Department of Commerce's NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center.

The propagation graphs above are the creations of KØCF and are unique in space weather reporting.

Please Note: The graphs are high resolution .PNG files which you may view in greater detail using your browser's "zoom" feature. Alternatively, right click on the graph and select "Open Image in New Tab" to enlarge it, or "Save Image As..." to save it to your computer for further analysis.

NASA's current view of the Sun at a wave-length of 131 Angstroms. This wavelength shows incredible solar detail.

Click [here](#) or on the image to view as a full screen 48-hour video loop. It is fascinating!



Propagation Summary

For the 8 day period from Thursday, March 26th through Thursday, April 2nd.

The average solar flux was 150, up 25 points from the previous week, with a weekly high of 162 on Saturday, March 28th, followed by a low of 140 on April 2nd.

The average sunspot count was 136, up 51 from last week, peaking at 152 on Thursday, April 2nd after a weekly low of 113 on March 26th.

The Planetary K-index weekly average was 3.4 with a maximum of 5.7 on Thursday, April 2nd, indicating a minor geomagnetic storm.

Solar flare activity since March 27th has been low with 5 major flares, the largest of which was a major X 1.4 event on Monday, March 30th.

Propagation Data

Major solar flares, Friday, March 27th through 1544 UTC, April 3rd.

#	Date	UTC	Mag.
1	Apr 03	1250	M 1.3
2	Apr 03	0756	M 1.3
3	Apr 02	1815	M 3.5
4	Mar 30	0319	X 1.4
5	Mar 28	0416	M 1.3

(NOAA's graph of recent flare activity: [GOES-X-Ray-Flux](#))

From the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center, here are the probabilities of major solar flares and the predicted 10.7 cm Solar Flux for the next 3 days. NOAA updates this information daily.

Date	M-Flares	X-Flares	Solar Flux
Apr 3	55%	20%	140
Apr 4	55%	20%	135
Apr 5	55%	20%	140

Looking farther ahead, here is the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center forecast of 10.7 cm radio flux and maximum Planetary K-index (Kp) for the next 12 days. This data is updated by NOAA every Monday (last updated on March 30, 2026).

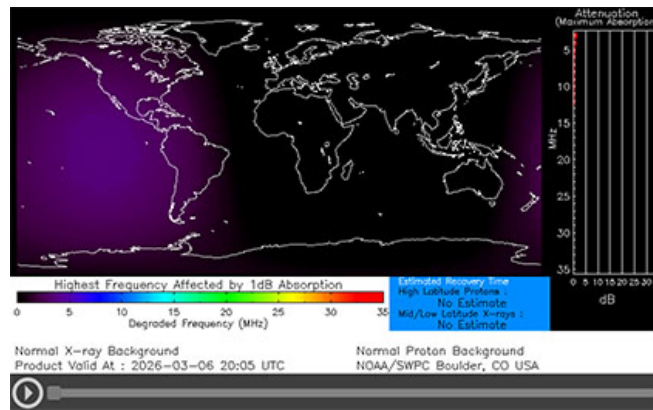
Date	Flux	Kp
Apr 3	150	4
Apr 4	145	5
Apr 5	145	3
Apr 6	135	4

Date	Flux	Kp
Apr 7	125	3
Apr 8	118	2
Apr 9	120	5
Apr 10	110	6

Date	Flux	Kp
Apr 11	112	5
Apr 12	115	4
Apr 13	115	3
Apr 14	110	2

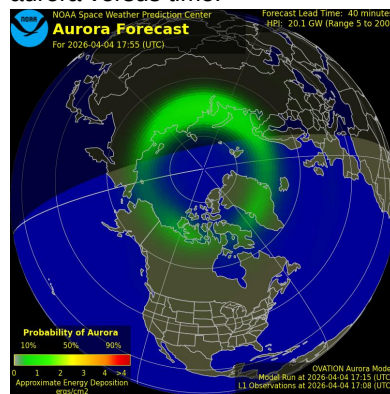
Global D Region Absorption

Conditions in the D-region of the ionosphere have a dramatic effect on HF communications. The D-Region Absorption map combines the effects of solar particles and photons. Yellow to red colors on the map depict increasing signal attenuation, where the bar chart at the right displays attenuation versus frequency. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of D-Region Absorption:



The Aurora Borealis

The aurora is not only beautiful to see but can have a profound impact on HF and VHF radio propagation. For the HF operator, auroras can result in a complete shut-down of propagation. However, on VHF, auroras present interesting DX possibilities. Beam antennas are very desirable and should be pointed north, towards the aurora. Signals are reflected by “back-scatter” and will be distorted with a rough buzz. SSB is the best voice mode to use, but copy can be difficult. CW will have a rough buzzy sound but be perfectly copyable. Click the thumbnail below for an animated map of aurora versus time:



Highs for Cycle 25

Solar Flux: 336 on August 8, 2024.

Sunspots: 382 on August 10, 2024.

Popular Propagation web sites

<https://prop.kc2g.com/> (Excellent Maximum Usable Frequency map)

NOAA <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>

<https://www.spaceweather.com/>

<https://www.solarham.com/>

<https://dx.qsl.net/propagation/>

A Propagation Tutorial

The solar X-ray flux tracks solar activity and solar flares. Solar flux, which can vary from as low as 50 to as high as 300, influences the level of ionization in the F2 region of the ionosphere, providing a very good prediction of HF DX conditions. The higher the solar flux, the better conditions will be for the higher HF frequencies and even 6 meters. However, the levels need to be maintained for some days to allow ionization in the F2 layer to build up. A solar flux of 150 results in good HF band conditions, while levels of 200 and up can provide great conditions.

Large X-ray flares on the sun can increase the ionization of the D layer of the ionosphere (a lower layer) on the sunlit side of the Earth, greatly attenuating or blocking HF radio transmissions for up to a half hour. Solar flares often produce Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) which, if Earth directed, can lead to geomagnetic storms. Some large flares are also accompanied by strong radio bursts that may interfere with other radio frequencies and cause problems for satellite communication and radio

navigation (GPS).

The Planetary K-index is a measure of the magnitude of geomagnetic storms and is an excellent indicator of disturbances in the Earth's magnetic field. A level of 1 or 2 represents quiet geomagnetic conditions; a reading of 3 or 4 may cause some propagation deterioration; 5 and 6 are minor to moderate geomagnetic storms; and 7 to 9 are strong, severe, and extreme storm conditions. Strong geomagnetic storms can trigger Auroral displays and cause HF radio blackouts. Higher geomagnetic activity also has the adverse effect of lowering maximum usable frequencies, much like lower solar flux does.

For best conditions, the solar flux should be above 150 for a few days with the K index below 2. When these conditions are met, some good DX is likely!

(Compiled from information on NOAA.gov and other sources.)

Contest Calendar

Weekly Contests

Contest	Start UTC		End	Web Site
K1USN Slow Speed Test	Monday	0000Z	0100Z	Rules
ICWC Medium Speed Test	Monday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Monday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Tuesday	0300Z	0400Z	
CWops Test (CWT)	Wednesday	1300Z	1400Z	Rules
	Wednesday	1900Z	2000Z	
	Thursday	0300Z	0400Z	
	Thursday	0700Z	0800Z	
Weekly RTTY Test	Friday	0145Z	0215Z	Rules
NCCC CW Sprint (NS)	Friday	0230Z	0300Z	Rules

Note: Start Days are in UTC, e.g. Monday at 0000 UTC is Sunday at 7:00 PM in the Central Daylight Saving Time zone, or Sunday at 6:00 PM in the Central Standard Time zone.

Full Calendar

Contest	Start		End		Web Site
Louisiana QSO Party	Apr 4	1400Z	Apr 5	0200Z	Rules
SP DX Contest	Apr 4	1500Z	Apr 5	1500Z	Rules
QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party	Apr 11	0000Z	Apr 11	2359Z	Rules
JIDX CW Contest	Apr 11	0700Z	Apr 12	1300Z	Rules
OK/OM DX Contest, SSB	Apr 11	1200Z	Apr 12	1159Z	Rules
New Mexico QSO Party	Apr 11	1400Z	Apr 12	0200Z	Rules
Georgia QSO Party	Apr 11	1800Z	Apr 12	2359Z	Rules
CQMM DX Contest	Apr 18	0900Z	Apr 19	2359Z	Rules
Michigan QSO Party	Apr 18	1600Z	Apr 19	0400Z	Rules

Ontario QSO Party	Apr 18	1800Z	Apr 19	1800Z	Rules
Quebec QSO Party	Apr 19	1200Z	Apr 19	2200Z	Rules
ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB	Apr 19	1800Z	Apr 19	2359Z	Rules
Florida QSO Party	Apr 25	1600Z	Apr 26	2159Z	Rules
7th Call Area QSO Party	May 2	1300Z	May 3	0700Z	Rules
Indiana QSO Party	May 2	1600Z	May 3	0400Z	Rules
Delaware QSO Party	May 2	1700Z	May 3	2359Z	Rules
New England QSO Party	May 2	2000Z	May 3	2400Z	Rules
CQ-M International DX Contest	May 9	1200Z	May 10	1159Z	Rules
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW	May 16	1200Z	May 17	1200Z	Rules
Arkansas QSO Party	May 16	1400Z	May 17	0200Z	Rules
CQ WW WPX Contest, CW	May 30	0000Z	May 31	2400Z	Rules
Atlantic Canada QSO Party	Jun 6	1200Z	Jun 7	0200Z	Rules
Kentucky QSO Party	Jun 6	1300Z	Jun 7	0100Z	Rules
ARRL Inter. Digital Contest	Jun 6	1800Z	Jun 7	2400Z	Rules
ARRL June VHF Contest	Jun 13	1800Z	Jun 15	0300Z	Rules
All Asian DX Contest, CW	Jun 20	0000Z	Jun 21	2400Z	Rules
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	Jun 20	1500Z	Jun 21	1500Z	Rules
ARRL Kids Day	Jun 20	1800Z	Jun 20	2359Z	Rules
ARRL Field Day	Jun 27	1800Z	Jun 28	2100Z	Rules
CQ Worldwide VHF SSB/CW Contest	Jul 4	1200Z	Jul 5	1200Z	Rules

(Contest data courtesy of the [WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#))